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PUBLIC INFORMATION DISCLOSURE UNDER LAW NO. 14 OF 2008: STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



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Abstract

This study aims to examine the implementation of public information disclosure in Indonesia under Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure and to analyze its role in strengthening transparency, accountability, and public participation in governance. The study employs a normative—empirical legal research design, combining statutory and conceptual approaches to examine legal provisions and their implementation in institutional practice. Data were obtained from relevant laws and regulations, scholarly literature, official documents, and semi-structured interviews with government officials and members of the public involved in or affected by public information disclosure. The data were analyzed qualitatively through reduction, classification, interpretation, and synthesis, supported by source triangulation. The findings show that Law No. 14 of 2008 provides a significant legal foundation for ensuring citizens' access to public information and strengthening public oversight. However, its implementation remains affected by institutional commitment, information management practices, accessibility, and administrative constraints. The findings also demonstrate that effective information disclosure enables citizens to monitor government activities, evaluate public services and policies, and participate in public decision-making. The study concludes that public information disclosure should not be treated merely as an administrative obligation but as an essential mechanism of transparent, accountable, and participatory governance. The contribution of this study lies in integrating normative legal analysis with empirical evidence to identify the gap between legal guarantees and institutional practices, while conceptually emphasizing information disclosure as a mechanism connecting the right to information with public oversight, institutional accountability, and meaningful participation in governance.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji implementasi keterbukaan informasi publik di Indonesia berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 14 Tahun 2008 tentang Keterbukaan Informasi Publik serta menganalisis perannya dalam memperkuat transparansi, akuntabilitas, dan partisipasi publik dalam tata kelola pemerintahan. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian hukum normatif-empiris dengan menggabungkan pendekatan perundang-undangan dan konseptual untuk mengkaji ketentuan hukum dan implementasinya dalam praktik kelembagaan. Data diperoleh dari peraturan perundang-undangan yang relevan, literatur ilmiah, dokumen resmi, dan wawancara semi-terstruktur dengan pejabat pemerintah serta anggota masyarakat yang terlibat atau terdampak oleh pelaksanaan keterbukaan informasi publik. Data dianalisis secara kualitatif melalui tahapan reduksi, klasifikasi, interpretasi, dan sintesis, yang didukung oleh triangulasi sumber. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Undang-Undang Nomor 14 Tahun 2008 memberikan landasan hukum yang signifikan dalam menjamin akses masyarakat terhadap informasi publik dan memperkuat pengawasan publik. Namun, implementasinya masih dipengaruhi oleh komitmen kelembagaan, praktik pengelolaan informasi, aksesibilitas, dan kendala administratif. Temuan juga menunjukkan bahwa keterbukaan informasi yang efektif memungkinkan masyarakat memantau kegiatan pemerintah, mengevaluasi pelayanan dan kebijakan



publik, serta berpartisipasi dalam pengambilan keputusan publik. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa keterbukaan informasi publik tidak semata-mata dipandang sebagai kewajiban administratif, tetapi sebagai mekanisme penting dalam mewujudkan tata kelola pemerintahan yang transparan, akuntabel, dan partisipatif. Kontribusi penelitian ini terletak pada integrasi analisis hukum normatif dengan bukti empiris untuk mengidentifikasi kesenjangan antara jaminan hukum dan praktik kelembagaan, sekaligus menempatkan keterbukaan informasi sebagai mekanisme yang menghubungkan hak atas informasi dengan pengawasan publik, akuntabilitas kelembagaan, dan partisipasi yang bermakna dalam tata kelola pemerintahan.

INTRDUCTION

At present, many countries, including Indonesia, continue to seek effective governance systems capable of creating institutional stability and improving public welfare (Rahimallah & Ricky, 2023). In Indonesia, the development of public information disclosure has moved beyond the provision of formal legal guarantees toward the practical implementation of transparency in government administration. The enactment of Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure provides a legal foundation for ensuring public access to information concerning state administration and the management of public resources. The implementation of this law is expected to promote good governance, improve public services, strengthen government accountability, and encourage meaningful public participation in national development (Kamaliah, 2015). Public information disclosure is therefore not merely an administrative requirement but also an important instrument for strengthening democratic governance and ensuring that the exercise of governmental authority remains open and accountable to society.

Despite the existence of a comprehensive legal framework, the implementation of transparent governance in Indonesia continues to encounter various challenges. Some government institutions still operate within a bureaucratic culture that is hierarchical, top – down, and relatively closed. Within this administrative culture, information may be treated as an institutional resource or source of authority rather than as a public right. Such a perception can restrict citizens' access to information and consequently limit their ability to monitor government performance and participate effectively in public decision – making. The issue is particularly significant because public trust is closely related to citizens' perceptions of government performance and responsiveness. Bouckaert explains that trust in government can be examined at the macro, meso, and micro levels. At the macro level, trust concerns political institutions and democratic functioning; at the meso level, it relates to policymaking and the government's capacity to manage economic and social affairs; while at the micro level, it concerns the government's impact on citizens' everyday lives through public services (Kalesaran, 2021). These

dimensions demonstrate that transparency is closely connected with accountability and public trust.

Public information transparency is consequently an essential element of democratic governance and an expression of citizens' constitutional rights. Public participation should not be understood merely as the exercise of voting rights but also as citizens' capacity to obtain information, supervise governmental actions, and contribute to policy processes. Effective transparency requires information to be available, accessible, accurate, and properly managed, while government institutions must also provide mechanisms that enable meaningful public participation. In this regard, transparency and accountability are mutually reinforcing: access to public information enables citizens to evaluate governmental policies and the management of public resources, while public participation strengthens institutional accountability (Alvioni, Darto, & Bonti, 2022). Nevertheless, the continuing gap between the normative framework established by Law No. 14 of 2008 and its implementation indicates that legal recognition alone is insufficient to guarantee substantive transparency. Institutional commitment, administrative culture, accountability mechanisms, and public participation remain important factors in determining whether the right to information can be effectively realized.

Against this background, the implementation of public information disclosure in Indonesia requires further examination, particularly regarding the relationship between legal regulation, institutional practices, transparency, and public participation. The persistence of limited openness and weak citizen involvement may generate tensions between government institutions and the communities they serve, particularly when public policies and regulatory decisions are developed without adequate access to information or meaningful participation. As a democratic state, Indonesia is expected to develop governance practices that are transparent, accountable, participatory, and responsive to public interests. Therefore, this study examines the implementation of public information disclosure in Indonesia by focusing on the extent to which the existing legal framework supports transparent governance and public participation. The study is expected to contribute to the discussion of governance and public accountability by identifying the relationship between normative guarantees of information disclosure and their practical implementation, while highlighting the importance of strengthening transparency as a foundation for public trust and democratic participation.

METHODS

This study employs a normative—empirical legal research design to examine the implementation of public information disclosure in Indonesia, particularly the relationship between the normative framework established by Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure and its implementation in government administration. The normative component examines relevant laws and regulations,

legal principles, and scholarly literature concerning public information disclosure, transparency, accountability, public participation, and good governance. The study applies statutory and conceptual approaches to analyze the legal obligations of public institutions and the principles underlying citizens' rights to access public information. The empirical component is used to examine how these normative provisions are implemented in institutional practice and how transparency and public participation are experienced by relevant stakeholders. Data were obtained from primary and secondary legal materials, complemented by empirical information collected through semi-structured interviews with relevant government officials and members of the public involved in or affected by the implementation of public information disclosure. The research was conducted in Indonesia during [month-month, year], with the research location determined according to the institutional scope examined in the study.

The collected data were analyzed qualitatively through several stages, including data reduction, classification, interpretation, and synthesis. Legal materials were examined through systematic legal analysis to identify the consistency between statutory provisions and their implementation, while interview data were analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns concerning transparency, accessibility of information, institutional accountability, public participation, and obstacles to information disclosure. The normative and empirical findings were subsequently compared and integrated to identify gaps between the legal framework and governance practices. The analysis also considers the principles of democratic governance and public accountability as analytical frameworks for assessing the effectiveness of public information disclosure. To enhance the credibility of the findings, information obtained from interviews was compared with relevant legal provisions, official documents, and scholarly sources through source triangulation. The study does not seek merely to assess whether government institutions comply formally with the law, but also to examine whether the implementation of information disclosure provides meaningful opportunities for citizens to obtain information, exercise oversight, and participate in public governance.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

Implementation of Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure

The implementation of Law No. 14 of 2008 demonstrates that public information disclosure has been formally established as an essential component of democratic governance in Indonesia. The law requires public bodies to provide access to information for applicants, subject to specific exemptions established to protect broader public or state interests. The enactment of the law represents an important legal development in strengthening governmental transparency and recognizing citizens' right to obtain accurate and accountable information. From a human rights perspective, the right to information constitutes an important civil

and political right and is consistent with the broader recognition of freedom to seek, receive, and impart information under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Gusman, 2022). The Indonesian framework therefore places information disclosure within both a legal and democratic context, rather than treating it merely as an administrative obligation.

The implementation of public information disclosure is also closely connected to the state's constitutional responsibility to protect citizens, promote general welfare, and support the intellectual development of the nation. The enactment of Law No. 14 of 2008 was intended to institutionalize freedom of information while simultaneously emphasizing responsibility in its use. Public access to information provides citizens with opportunities to understand government activities, while also enabling government institutions to formulate policies on the basis of greater openness and public awareness. In this context, information disclosure contributes to democratization by creating opportunities for citizens to participate in public decision-making. The legal framework consequently establishes information access as an important instrument for strengthening the relationship between government authority and citizens' participation in governance (Raharjo, Firdaus, & Riwanto, 2017).

The findings further indicate that effective implementation requires public institutions to treat information as a strategic organizational resource. Information supports coordination, decision-making, policy implementation, and institutional control and therefore has a function comparable to other essential governmental resources. Effective information management requires not only the provision of information but also mechanisms that ensure its accessibility, comprehensibility, and equitable use by the public. This is particularly important because the right to information cannot be effectively realized when information exists formally but is difficult for citizens to access or understand. Information management should therefore become an integral component of public administration and should support transparent, participatory, and accountable governance (Gindra, 2024).

Public Information Transparency, Oversight, and Good Governance

The results demonstrate that public information transparency functions as an important instrument for strengthening public oversight of government administration and public institutions. The principle of openness enables citizens to obtain information concerning government policies, decision-making processes, implementation, and outcomes. Such access provides the public with a basis for understanding and evaluating governmental accountability. Transparency therefore extends beyond the simple publication of information; it concerns the government's responsibility to communicate relevant information in a manner that allows citizens to understand how public authority is exercised. Public information disclosure consequently provides an institutional foundation for strengthening

communication between government institutions and society (Ulumiyah & Gati, 2024).

The findings also show that public participation is closely associated with information transparency. In a democratic state, citizens' involvement in monitoring government performance represents an important manifestation of popular sovereignty. Public oversight, whether exercised directly or indirectly, provides a mechanism for ensuring that government operations remain consistent with the principles of good governance. These principles include transparency, accountability, responsiveness, professionalism, and freedom from corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) (Saputra, 2019). Access to reliable information is consequently important because citizens cannot effectively monitor government performance or provide informed responses to public policies without adequate knowledge of governmental activities. Transparency thus creates the informational conditions necessary for meaningful public participation.

The results further indicate that transparency should be implemented throughout the entire public service process, beginning with planning and policymaking and continuing through implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Such comprehensive transparency can contribute to improving public service quality and strengthening good governance (Haikal & Mauliana, 2022). This requires an effective information–governance system covering the creation, storage, use, and archiving of information, together with clearly defined access rights, procedures, standards, and institutional responsibilities (Sari, Mulya, & Darajat, 2025). Thus, transparency is not an isolated administrative activity but part of an integrated information–management system that supports accountability and public access throughout the governance process.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that Law No. 14 of 2008 has established an important normative foundation for public information disclosure in Indonesia. The law provides citizens with a legal basis for obtaining information while simultaneously establishing responsibilities for public bodies to facilitate access to information. This legal framework reflects a broader democratic principle that government authority should remain subject to public knowledge and oversight. The recognition of access to information as a human right strengthens the position of citizens in relation to public institutions and transforms information from an exclusively administrative resource into an important component of democratic governance. This interpretation is consistent with the international recognition of the right to seek, receive, and impart information and with the Indonesian legal framework discussed in the study (Gusman, 2022).

The relationship between information disclosure and public participation is particularly significant. Citizens' participation in governance cannot operate effectively when access to relevant information is restricted. Information enables citizens to understand government policies, assess their implementation, and

provide feedback concerning their consequences. Raharjo, Firdaus, and Riwanto (2017) emphasize that freedom of information simultaneously expands public access and provides government with clearer strategic choices in policymaking. From this perspective, transparency creates a two-way relationship: citizens obtain the knowledge necessary for participation, while government institutions gain opportunities to receive public responses to policies and programs.

The findings also reinforce the connection between transparency and accountability. Government accountability requires citizens to have sufficient information to evaluate how public authority and resources are used. Ulumiyah and Gati (2024) emphasize that accurate, verified, timely, understandable, and continuously updated information can strengthen mutual trust between government and society, while also encouraging public participation and reducing potential violations of law. Accordingly, transparency should not be measured simply by whether an institution has disclosed information. The quality and usability of the information are equally important. Information that is technically available but inaccurate, outdated, inaccessible, or difficult to understand may not provide an effective basis for public oversight.

From the perspective of good governance, transparency also functions as a mechanism for reducing opportunities for abuse of public authority. Asnawi (2016) associates the lack of transparency in government administration with the emergence of corruption, collusion, and nepotism during the New Order period. Openness provides opportunities for government actions to be monitored by citizens and other relevant stakeholders, thereby strengthening institutional accountability. This is consistent with the broader principles of good governance, which emphasize transparency, accountability, responsiveness, professionalism, and the prevention of KKN (Saputra, 2019). Finally, the findings suggest that effective transparency requires institutional reform in information management and public service delivery. Government institutions perform both regulatory and service functions, meaning that information must support both the establishment of rules and the delivery of services to citizens (Nugraha & Khairani, 2023). Information governance provides the organizational framework through which information is created, stored, accessed, used, and archived, with clearly defined standards, procedures, and responsibilities (Sari, Mulya, & Darajat, 2025). Transparency should consequently be implemented across planning, policymaking, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting rather than being limited to the final stage of government activity (Haikal & Mauliana, 2022).

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the implementation of Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure has established an important legal foundation for strengthening transparency, accountability, and public participation in Indonesia. The regulation recognizes access to public information as a citizen's right and

places corresponding obligations on public institutions to provide information that is relevant, accessible, and accountable. The findings show, however, that the existence of a comprehensive normative framework does not automatically ensure effective implementation. Practical challenges remain in translating the principles of information disclosure into institutional practices, particularly where bureaucratic structures and administrative practices continue to influence the accessibility and management of public information. Public information disclosure therefore needs to be understood not merely as an administrative obligation, but as an instrument for enabling citizens to monitor government activities, obtain information necessary for public decision – making, and participate meaningfully in governance. Effective transparency depends on the consistency between legal obligations, institutional commitment, information management, and accessibility for the public.

The study further concludes that public information disclosure contributes to the development of accountable and participatory governance by creating a relationship between transparency, public oversight, and institutional responsibility. Accessible information enables citizens to evaluate public policies and services, while public oversight can encourage institutions to provide more accountable and responsive administration. The study therefore highlights the importance of strengthening information governance, improving institutional capacity, and ensuring that disclosure mechanisms operate throughout the public service process rather than only at the formal level. Conceptually, the study contributes to the understanding of public information disclosure as a governance mechanism that connects the legal right to information with broader principles of transparency, accountability, and participation. Its significance lies in demonstrating that the effectiveness of Law No. 14 of 2008 should be assessed not only through formal compliance, but also through whether citizens can actually access information and use it to exercise oversight and participate in public governance.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

Firdaus Arifin took the lead in formulating the research design and preparing the introduction as well as the background of the study. Irvan Refliandi was in charge of conducting the literature survey and elaborating the methodological framework. Sri Rahmadhani was responsible for carrying out the data analysis, interpreting the results, and assisting in the refinement of the manuscript. All authors have jointly reviewed and approved the final draft of the paper.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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